

4-23-2015

## Daily Eastern News: April 23, 2015

Eastern Illinois University

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## CELEBRATING CHARLESTON

Vendors prepare for the annual Celebration located between the Doudna Fine Arts Center and Buzzard Hall.

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## SNARE IN SOFTBALL

Freshman catcher Andrea Roberts starts dugout drumline bringing energy to the Panthers' lineup.

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# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, April 23, 2015

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 99 | NO. 140

## Student Senate votes no to increase student fees

By Luis Martinez  
Administration Editor | @DEN\_News

The Student Senate voted to not approve the proposed student fee increase in Wednesday's meeting.

The student senators voted 11-to-5 against the fee increase. The proposed increase would have been an overall increase of \$6.30, with athletics receiving the biggest increase with \$5.36.

Senator Chris Pickard tried to motion striking out the athletic fee entirely from the proposed student fees.

He said his motion was so the entire student body can benefit from the fee increases, not just student athletes.

"There are significant increases to the athletic budget, and minimal increases to other budgets," Pickard said. "In my opinion, this is not at all a wise way to spend the student fees as it only serves a minority of the student body."

Other senators did not agree with striking the athletic fee from the proposed student fee increase; the proposed motion was voted against 11-to-1, with four of the senators abstaining from voting.

Dan Nadler, the vice president for student affairs, was in attendance for the meeting, and during the discussion among the senators, explained how the proposed increases originated.

SENATE, page 5

## BOT to meet at Lake Land on future collaboration

Staff Report

There will be an adjointed Board of Trustees meeting between Eastern and Lake Land Community College Thursday.

The meeting will discuss the current collaboration efforts between the two institutions and any future collaboration as both education institutions move forward in the future.

Among the items for discussion will include taking advantages of the changes in higher education, skills shortage in the workforce, student leaving the state, and international opportunities for Illinois students.

The board meeting will begin at 11 a.m. and will continue until 5:30 p.m. in Room 81 in Webb Hall at Lake Land College Mattoon.

There will also be a second Board of Trustees meeting Friday at 1 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom in the Martin Luther King University Union. The board will discuss the proposed student fee increase and go over the tenure recommendations as well.



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

One man is patted down by law enforcement during a police operation at 400 W. Pierce Avenue in Charleston. The Crisis Response Team entered the home as part of an investigation that began when a probation officer visited the home.

## Standoff surprises community

By Katie Smith  
Editor-in-Chief | @DEN\_News

The police have not released any further information about a standoff that took place Tuesday at 400 W. Pierce Ave. and startled Charleston residents on their morning commutes.

Lisa Taylor and Tiffany Bontempes of Charleston were on their regular morning walk when they spotted armed members of the Crisis Response Team circling a house across the street from Ace Hardware.

The women's pace quickened and they grew frightened by the number of armed officers at the crime scene — a sight they said was unusual in Charleston.

"Oh my God. What is going on," Bontempes said. "This is not what I'm used to seeing in Charleston. We walk every morning."

Crystal Glik had a similar reaction, although her concern was for the safety and wellbeing of her husband and children.

Crystal Glik drove by the house where she said her husband David Glik, was staying when

she noticed the police vehicles Tuesday.

"I've been trying to tell him to come home and be with his family," she said. "He's just staying with a friend. I don't even really know these people."

Crystal Glik said her husband was not on probation during the time of the standoff, which resulted in five individuals suspected of possessing weapons and narcotics being taken in for questioning and one official arrest.

Officials refused to identify the individuals taken into custody Tuesday.

The CRT arrived at the home early Tuesday morning to make contact with high-priority individuals, Steven Kelly, the director of court services said.

A drug task force notified the CRT that the individuals might have been in possession of weapons and narcotics. When CRT members knocked on the door and heard several voices, but no one in the residence answered, the local police and sheriff's departments were called for assistance.

Two individuals exited the home after CRT

members requested over a loud speaker for anyone in the residence to come out. Four additional individuals were escorted out of the house when the CRT decided it was necessary for public safety that they enter.

Kelly said the house's occupants were apprehended and interviewed for more information.

"The CRT team made entry after that six occupants were escorted out of the house and are being interviewed in investigation to further this going forward," he said.

Before entering the home during the about six-and-a-half hour standoff, the CRT obtained a search warrant based off the residents' suspicious behavior.

"They did an outstanding job taking their time, and I believe that was why there was no incident of anyone getting hurt on either side," he said.

Katie Smith can be reached at 581-2812 or kesmith2@eiu.edu.

## Students shed light on difference between traditional, Eastern Holi

By Roberto Hodge  
Multicultural Editor | @BertoHodge

Students will be drenched in high doses of water while being covered in vibrantly colored powder for the third annual Holi: Festival of Colors at 2 p.m. Friday in the Library Quad.

Holi, a Hindu religious holiday most commonly celebrated in India and Nepal, is meant for individuals to free themselves of

past stresses and angers — taking up a forgive-and-forget attitude.

With the holiday being celebrated worldwide and every year at Eastern, many international students recognize it as a day of happiness but celebrate it differently.

Mahip Rathore, a clinical psychology graduate student, said Holi is celebrated on a full moon according to the Hindu calendar marking the end of winter and beginning of spring.

"We put dry colors on each other and celebrate it like a carnival," Rathore said.


Sneha Marupaka, a technology graduate student, said one of the differences when she celebrates the holiday in India is the different colors used to paint their clothes and skin is actually watercolors. She said each color represents some form of happiness and moving on from the past.

HOLI, page 5




Local weather

THURSDAY



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Low: 36°

FRIDAY



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Blue Room editor publishes 4 th issue

By Stephanie White  
Entertainment Editor | [@DEN\\_News](https://twitter.com/DEN_News)

In 2013 Eastern art students created a magazine that focused on the artwork of students and professors so others can learn from them. Now, one and a half years later, the Blue Room magazine has finished processing orders and is ready to print its fourth issue.

Jamie Olson, a senior graphic design major, said she and other students created this magazine from scratch because she wanted an advertisement on what the art department can do.

"We wanted there to be a publication to show people what our students can do," she said. "This magazine is to show people outside of Doudna what we can do."

The publication does not only show students and their artwork, but also provides tips and tutorials, along with advice and interviews from artists.

Olson said one magazine explained step by step on how to create a canvas. Another had advice on different image resolution.

"Image resolution is something that helps an artist for the resumes and their future jobs," she said.

This magazine is not only an advertisement on the student artwork she said but a student resource as well; something they can use to help them with their classes and if they are stuck on a project for class or a job.

"The advice that is shared in the magazine is to not only to help the readers with their day to day activities but with their future employment in the field," she said.

A difference between this magazine and others on campus is that there is no faculty adviser to help them along she said.

"We would love a faculty adviser but we have done well so far without one," she said. "Each student is in control of their own sections, editing, designing and everything that is talked about in



DANIELLE TADLOCK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Blue Room is a magazine that has been running for three semesters. Blue Room is run entirely by students and is full of art created by alums, faculty, and students.

the meetings."

Olson said faculty members were skeptical at first when she and other students proposed the idea for the publication.

After they showed them that they could do it and what students were capable of, the faculty was proud of them and proud to be apart of the magazine.

"Every issue we create we try to improve," she said. "We have a lot of meetings and everyone who is apart of the team is in charge of something,"

Eastern students are able to help, as it is not a requirement to be an art major to be a part of the magazine.

"I am graduating after this semester, so I will be giving my position to someone else but I hope that even after I am gone, the magazine will stay as a part of the art



SUBMITTED PHOTO


The Blue Room prints once a semester and costs \$10.


department," she said.

The Blue Room magazine prints once a semester and costs \$10.

Stephanie White can be reached at 581-2812 or [sewhite2@eiu.edu](mailto:sewhite2@eiu.edu).

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Antique dealers show products to community

By Ana Nededog  
Staff Reporter | [@DEN\\_News](https://twitter.com/DEN_News)

Local art and antique dealers will have the opportunity to showcase their products to residents in Charleston and surrounding communities starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday at Osage Farm.

Osage Farm will be once again offering its spring showcase, putting out various antique items for sale.

A bi-annual Art & Antiques show began with Diane Cole, who has been an antique dealer since 1997.

Cole said the event started when a close friend needed a place to show-

case and sell her gourd art in 2006.

The show is put on every last Saturday in September and April. It drew in a crowd of 700 to 800 people last year, and Coles said she has plans to continue the show in upcoming years.

The show consists of individual dealers and artists selling their products to attendees. Each dealer can price their own products and have a booth to display them.

Each of the 18 dealers who will be present apply for their products to be displayed and are eventually judged to be chosen to be in the show.

The show focuses on the quality of primitive country antiques rang-

ing from the early 1800s through the 1920s.

These products include pottery, furniture, hand-made wood, books, quilts and home decorations.

Prices for these products can range from \$1 to \$1,000 depending on the dealer.

Some popular products in the show include garden antiques, primitive furniture with original paint, industrial antiques and architectural antiques.

Along with the main show, the band Big Blue Mountain will perform and Mary Everhart's products will be displayed.

Some new additions to the show

include Smoky's House BBQ, which will be providing samples to attendees, as well as the Kettle Corn Man.

Returning dealers include Marti and Keith Martin and Randi Moore.

Kim Groothuis, a new dealer for the year, will also be welcomed at the event.

The event will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday at 1344 E County Road 720 N. Admission is free and all are encouraged to attend.

Ana Nededog can be reached at 581-2812 or [ajnededog@eiu.edu](mailto:ajnededog@eiu.edu).

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# Art, food vendors to contribute at Celebration

Vendor spots have been sold out for 2015 Celebration Festival

By **Stephanie White**  
Entertainment Editor | @DEN\_News

Eastern’s Celebration Festival will have returning vendors along with new ones this upcoming weekend.

Dan Crews, the director of patron services in the Doudna Fine Arts Center, said the vendor spots have been all sold out and some vendors are on a waiting list for a just in case situation.

Outside of the food stands and information booth, most of the vendors will have an art focus, selling their items during the festival.

“Most of the vendors will be coming from different cities in Illinois, but we do have a few out-of-state ones as well,” Crews said.

Sellers will be coming from Montana, Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio.

Many of the vendors are community members themselves. Jeff Boshart, an art professor at Eastern, will be selling his ceramics, sculpture and photographs at the festival.

Boshart said he will be selling art pieces he has been working on specifically for the festival, along with his photographs.

He said is excited to be a part of a Eastern tradition that not only students enjoy but community members and families enjoy



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Members of the Mexican Folkloric Company of Chicago perform native dances on April 26, 2014 during the Celebration of the Arts.

as well.

“Being a part of an Eastern tradition is something I look forward to,” he said. “Plus I get to sell my artwork to people and families enjoying the event. I like that I can be a part of a tradition while doing something I love and adding to the enjoyment people would hopefully experience during the festival.”

Amanda Hill and Sandra

Simpson, Charleston community members, will be selling wreaths during the festival.

Hill said wreaths are not just for Christmas but can be made for all year round.

“Wreaths are a great thing to have all year round because they are beautiful and the ones we are selling are going to be handmade,” she said.

Both Simpson and she have

handmade the wreaths themselves, along with help from others.

Crews said this year should be exciting for students, faculty and families who come because of all the arts and crafts that are being sold.

“This festival does not only benefit Eastern but the community as well,” he said. “People get to experience what people are capable of doing and what can really be hand made.”

The festival will start Friday at 11:30 a.m. until 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Sunday 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Stephanie White can be reached at 581-2812 or sewhite2@eiu.edu.

# CAA prepares courses for Fall semester

By **Derrin Coad**  
Staff Reporter|@DEN\_news

The Council on Academic Affairs will discuss the alterations of several courses during their weekly meeting Thursday in Room 4440 of Booth Library.

The CAA has been discussing class changes at their meetings in recent weeks in order to prepare changes to the Fall 2015 semester catalog. At the council’s meeting last Thursday, eight

courses saw changes to their prerequisites, while several family and consumer sciences courses received name changes.

This week’s CAA meeting will have the council members discussing even more alterations and changes to a number of different courses, including the addition and deletion of several courses.

Christopher Mitchell, the interim associate dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, has

put in several memos to the CAA to add a class each to the film studies minor and the women’s studies minor.

Mitchell said these sorts of changes to the catalog are usually minor and quite common in the span of the academic year.

“Adding a course to a curriculum gives the student in that particular curriculum more options,” says Mitchell.

Two history courses will also be discussed from Mitchell’s

memo. The two classes may be deleted from the fall catalog.

Mitchell said the deletions, like many other class deletions discussed by the CAA, is because a department might not have faculty available to teach the courses.

“Since departments continually refine and reassess their curriculum in light of the staff they have, this is part of the normal course of events,” Mitchell said.

On top of acting upon the

memos Mitchell put before the council, the CAA will also discuss revising two different business classes, as well as the addition of a new Rural Studies minor. The requirements to the Psychology Honors program will also be placed under revision.

Derrin Coad can be reached at 581-2812 or dkcoad@eiu.edu.

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**“Good Person of Setzuan” | 7:30 - 10 PM**  
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Katie Smith

## Make small sacrifices for the planet

An estimated more than 9,000 gallons of fuel to have been used on Air Force One to transport President Barack Obama to Florida's Everglades, where he cautioned audiences about climate change Wednesday.

The trip covered 1,836 miles roundtrip and consumed 9,180 gallons of fuel, according to a CBS DC story published Tuesday.

Environmental issues like climate change and pollution are valid and real concerns. As much as Obama may have wanted to show up the political opponents who he believes need to further address climate change, his trip was unfortunately counter-productive.

We are prone to committing the same hypocrisies — on a smaller scale, granted — every day while performing mindless tasks. In honor of Earth Day, here are some ways you can help the planet:

### Recycling

The National Recycling Coalition and U.S. EPA found less than 35 percent of households and 10 percent of businesses recycle. They reported that if national recycling levels can reach 75% it will be the environmental benefit of removing 50 million cars from the road each year and has the potential generate 1.5 million new jobs.

Recycling is easy, particularly at Eastern, which The Princeton Review reported as one of the most environmentally responsible colleges in the U.S. and Canada. The university has designated bins for trash, cans, plastic and paper and those who live off campus can take their recycling to one of three drop off sites located in Mattoon.

### Bottled water

Investing in a reusable bottle not only reduces the amount of plastic dumped in landfills, but it also saves money. About 90 percent of plastic water bottles are not recycled, and each can take thousands of years to fully decompose.

Eastern has fountains throughout campus specifically designed to fit and refill reusable bottles while keeping track of its positive environmental impact.

### Go cruelty free

Safe, quality lives are just as important as having a clean livable planet. Popular companies like Clorox, Revlon and Johnson and Johnson test its products on animals — and that doesn't just mean rats and mice. If you know me, you know I love rats, which is a big reason animal testing is such an important issue for me. But they aren't the only animals that are exposed to unsanitary and dangerous living conditions in cosmetic and pharmaceutical laboratories. Rabbits, cats, dogs and primates are abused and killed every day, despite successful alternatives to animal testing.

Peta.org includes a list of more than a thousand cruelty free companies, meaning they do not test any of their ingredients on animals.

### Go digital

Paying your bills and subscribing to publications online significantly cuts down on paper waste while also making documents more accessible and easier to organize. Paying bills online alone could save 18.5 million trees every year, 2.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and 1.7 billion pounds of solid waste.

If you celebrated Earth Day, do not let it be for nothing. Making small lifestyle changes has the potential to yield a huge impact on the environment's well being. And if you're headed to the Everglades to lecture about carbon emissions, consider Skyping in before flying on a private jet.

**Katie Smith is a senior journalism major and she can be reached at [denopinions@gmail.com](mailto:denopinions@gmail.com).**

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## Surfin' EIU



JEHAD ABBED | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Student lobbying, a necessity for Eastern

With all of the panic the state has caused at institutions like Eastern recently, having something like Lobby Day via the Student Action Team is one of the few things concerned people can do to try to change things.

Universities in Illinois are faced with the potential for decreased MAP Grant funding and availability and 31.5 percent less funding next year.

On top of that, 2.25 percent has been cut from funds already distributed this fiscal year, meaning Eastern will have to find a way to return \$989,100 of the roughly \$4.4 million it has been given in appropriations.

This has all been within the past few months.

Catie Witt, the executive vice president of Student Senate, has taken initiative in this by leading a group of Eastern students to appeal these issues to the Illinois legislature for Lobby Day.

A total of 20 students from Eastern went to Springfield on April 15 and divided into two groups to lobby legislators on the issues of declining appropriated funds and MAP Grants.

According to an article in the April 16 edition of The Daily Eastern News, Witt said legislators saw a “sea of blue” and knew what the students were there for before they even started speaking.

The Illinois House and Senate still must approve the state's budget before May 31. While the state has to balance the budget somehow, and cuts to certain areas are inevitable, putting faces to the “higher education” line will help them to visualize who will be impacted by their decisions.

All universities in the state are basically on the same sinking boat; however, seeing students from Eastern and recognizing that these are involved and passionate individuals will hopefully leave an impression.

Though the Student Action Team lobbies every year for MAP Grant funding, it was especially significant for them to do so this year.

Rep. Reggie Phillips proposed a bill in the House recently that would require a certain GPA and ACT score for recent high school graduates to be eligible for MAP

Grants if it is approved.

Meanwhile, Sen. Bill Brady proposed a bill that would make students repay half or all of their MAP Grants depending on their time to graduation if it is approved.

Additionally, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission moved the deadline to apply for MAP Grants to the earliest date in the history of the program this year, which was Feb. 21.

With the state inching away MAP Grant funding because of its limited budget, lobbying to keep them steady and reasonable is imperative.

Having students lobby also serves a dual purpose of getting them acclimated to what it means to be active and involved in the process of government.

As such, the Student Senate and others within the university should continue with initiatives like this in the future.

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.

# Working on the job as a passion, not a chore

## Mackenzie Freund

“You’re a journalism major? So basically you don’t want a job?”

When I chose to change my major to journalism, I knew that I was getting into a very competitive field.

What I did not do, however, is go into a career path of which I have no future in.

I chose to change my major to journalism because I found something that I am good at, and something that makes me happy.

I came to EIU as a transfer student majoring in biology. I started working for the Daily Eastern News and the Warbler Yearbook, and suddenly that’s all I talked about to my best friend and my family.

Having the experience of working for the paper made me realize that I didn’t want to major in science to do what I thought would make my family happy.

Being part of the DEN made me realize that what I wanted to do was take pictures, write stories, and tell the truth about events.

I spent a lot of time roaming around campus and going to events with my camera glued to my face just waiting to capture that perfect moment.

I spent a lot of time doing what I love, and not even thinking about it as a career.

I chose to be a journalist because I love it. I love knowing that I get to go out and make my passion my career. I love knowing that I can build relationships with people that some can only dream about.

I have the opportunity to work at a daily paper for my school, better my skills as a reporter and photographer and give myself that extra step that many people don’t have.

Knowing that I chose my major because it is what I want to do, not what everyone else wants me to do took a load of stress off of me that I didn’t even know existed.

I know that when I graduate in two years, I will not have made a mistake when I chose journalism as my major.

I love knowing that I will be happy when I graduate from EIU, because I had the opportunity to work for the DEN and get a view of what the rest of my life will be.

I wish more students had the opportunity to do this.

I wish more students could go out and get this kind of hands on experience in whatever field they want to go into.

If more students had the option to turn their passions into their careers, I feel like they would be less concerned about pleasing other people and end up being happier with what they choose as a career.

**Mackenzie Freund is a journalism major and can be reached at 581-2812 or at [denopinions@gmail.com](mailto:denopinions@gmail.com).**



» **SENATE**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE1

“Basically, all of these areas here, what we did was a thorough analysis to see what they might need to get them back on the road to recovery,” Nadler said. “Athletics was not the only area on this list that deficits, so we’ve been trying to help as many as many of the organizations as possible without hitting all of the organizations at the same time.”

Nadler also said some of the items on the list received an adjustment last year, even though there was no bottom-line increase in the overall fee amount.

“There was some readjustments in their fee for this year, and that was taken into account as well,” Nadler said. “For example, student activity this year went up compared to last year, that was part of the readjustment.”

Nadler said it was rare to get an adjustment or more money, and some of the other groups struggled as well.

“Some of the groups continue to struggle, and we’ve tried to help as many as possible without making it a real burden financially,” Nadler said.

Melanie Kaderabek, the vice chairwoman for University Board, said she is in support of Eastern’s athletics, but her issue was with the development of the student fee increase.

“While a student fee increase does sound like a good idea, the development of it, I just think, was questionable, and not done correctly,” Kaderaback said. “If 85 percent of the \$6.30 student fee increase is going to student athletics, that’s great but what is University Board potentially getting out of the \$0.48 that are appointed to student fees. That goes to Apportionment Board, student government, the Recreation Center, and University Board, \$0.12 per student per credit hour.”

Grant Sterling, chairman of Faculty Senate, said why the Faculty Senate opposed the student fee increase.

“The Faculty Senate recognizes that this is a Student Senate vote,” Sterling said. “We had some concerns both about the content of the proposal and the why the proposal was presented.”

Sterling also said it was because of this reason that the faculty senators chose to opposed the fee increase.

Election results for the next academic year were officially announced during the senate meeting as well. Shirmeen Ahmad was announced as the next student body president; Catie Witt as executive vice president; Courtney Sage as the vice president for students affairs; and Stephen Simpson as the vice president for academic affairs.

*Luis Martinez can be reached at 581-2812 or [lpmartinez@eiu.edu](mailto:lpmartinez@eiu.edu)*



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
Minh Luong, a graduate student, is thrown in a bath and has water thrown on her during EIU's Holi April 26, 2013 at the North Quad.

» **HOLI** CONTINUED FROM PAGE1

Marupaka said when she participates in the holiday, the colors have stained her skin for about a week. She said some cultures wear white when celebrating the holiday and others just wear their regular clothes like the Gujarati.

“We used to wear old clothes because the clothes would be very dirty,” Marupaka said.

Holi is considered a holy day in many ways. The holiday is a celebration of ridding past angers and evils the night before with a bonfire called Holika, which is where Holi gets its name.

The ash from the bonfire is also sometimes worn on the forehead to ward off evil spirits, according to the Holi Festival website. The holiday in India also incorporates a drink called bhang, which is made out of cannabis leaves.

Marupaka said one of the biggest differences she has seen for Eastern’s Holi and the event in India is the small amount of colors. She said

India’s way of celebration allows for many colors. Last year, she was one of the students who used the mud formed by the gallons of water, as another color during the event.

“Holi is a great thing for us; I really like that,” Marupaka said of the university celebrating it annually.

Tejaswi Lingam, a graduate student in computer technology, said the holiday is also celebrated a little differently regionally in India. Like Marupaka, Lingam said they do use watercolors to celebrate.

Lingam said they also have the same color powder used for Eastern’s celebration, but they use it to mix with buckets of water and spray one another with water guns. She said some also conduct a prayer ritual called Puja to honor and pay respects to a god or spirit as well as lighting incense.

Rathore said one of the fun aspects about the holiday is using water balloons and water guns to apply color coating one another’s bod-

ies in a variety of hues.

“This is an occasion on which we forget our differences, forgive our foes and repair ruptured relationships,” Rathore said.

Jayadev Kasaraneni, a graduate student, said the event it is a good time to let go and have fun. Each color as Marupaka said represents happiness, but also many different emotions.

Kasaraneni and Lingam both said when they have celebrated the event, they wear their normal clothes instead of white because it gets expensive to buy and wash white clothes year after year for the holiday.

Neither Lingam nor Kasaraneni have participated in Eastern’s version of the holiday and both are eager to attend.

“We don’t want to miss Holi,” Lingam said.

*Roberto Hodge can be reached at 581-2812 or [rlhodge@eiu.edu](mailto:rlhodge@eiu.edu)*

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# Opening up at opening



MISSA BORAH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Bob Zordani, an English professor, shares some of his original poetry to celebrate the opening of the new bookstore “Bob’s Bookstore” Wednesday in the Charleston Square.

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**MACKENZIE FREUND | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS**  
Senior catcher Hannah Cole looks for the signal from the coach for the next pitch during the Eastern womens’ softball game against Tennessee State Saturday at Williams Field.

# OVC teams begin final stretch of games

**By Sean Hastings**  
Staff reporter | @DEN\_Sports

As the Eastern softball team and the rest of the Ohio Valley Conference teams head into the final stretch of six games of the conference schedule, Southern Illinois-Edwardsville sits atop the conference with a 16-4 record.

Jacksonville State (13-5), Murray State (14-7) round out the top three.

The top eight teams in the conference will make it to the OVC tournament hosted at the No. 1 seeded teams’ home field.

Tennessee-Martin (9-9) and Morehead State (8-8) sit in seventh and eighth and will be

looking to hold on to those final spots.

Southeast Missouri is still fighting to get the eighth and final spot with a record of 6-11.

UT Martin will have to be at their best as they are playing two top three teams in SIUE and Murray State in their final six games.

Morehead State will be taking on Tennessee State (2-17) who is last in the conference, and Tennessee Tech who sits in fifth place with a 13-8 record.

SEMO will also have a tough final stretch of games, as they will take on Eastern Illinois who has won four-straight conference games.

They will also take on a 4-15

Austin Peay team.

For teams like Belmont (5-13), Austin Peay and Tennessee State, the door to the OVC tournament appears to be closing on them.

Those teams will have to hope they can win their final six games, and UT Martin and Morehead State lose theirs’.

Eastern Illinois is another team that is on the bubble with their 11-8 record sitting in sixth place in the conference.

Eastern will be taking on SEMO and Edwardsville in three games each to finish off their season.

The Panthers have had everything clicking for them as of late.

In their last four conference wins, they have outscored opponents 25-7.

Freshman pitcher Jessica Wireman has been shutting down teams in her last four appearances all resulting in wins.

Wireman has only given up two runs in 25 innings pitched.

She also tossed a no-hitter against UT Martin April 11.

Eastern has two top 10 hitters for batting average in seniors’ Hannah Cole and Bailey O’Dell.

Cole is hitting .374, and O’Dell is hitting .366.

Eastern Kentucky sits in fourth place right in front of Tennessee Tech.

Eastern Kentucky has won

their last five conference matchups, and Tennessee Tech has lost two straight games both to Murray State.

Each team’s remaining six games will be a three game series against each opponent this coming weekend and then will finish the following weekend May 3-4.

The OVC tournament will begin Wednesday, May 6 and last until May 9, when the championship game will be played.

*Sean Hastings can be reached at 581-2812 or smhastings@eiu.edu.*

# Track & Field teams head to Drake Relays

**By Mark Shanahan**  
Staff Reporter | @DEN\_Sports

Eastern will have nine individuals and six relay teams competing at the Drake Relays that starts on Thursday and goes until Saturday evening.

Eastern coach Tom Akers said the Drake Relays is one of the largest meets along with the Penn Relays.

“It’s one of the largest track meets in the nation on this weekend and there’s Penn Relays out East, there’s Drake Relays in the Midwest and it’s been a very prestigious event,” he said.

Drake Relays is selective on who they let compete at the weekend event.

“It’s an outstanding meet,”

**“It’s one of the largest track meets in the nation on this weekend and there’s Penn Relays out East, there’s Drake Relays in the Midwest and it’s been a very prestigious event.”**

**-Tom Akers, Track & Field coach**

Akers said. “There is excellent competition from around the nation, and it’s pretty selective as

far as who gets in to the meet.”

Akers talked about how Drake goes through their selection process on which they accept to compete.

“You submit your entry’s and then Drake has a predetermined how many competitors they are going to allow in each event,” he said. “They’ll look at who the entry’s are and then draw a line in the sand and say these people got into the meet and these people didn’t.”

Eastern freshman Whitney Maninfior will run in the 10,000-meter run, and junior Kristen Paris in the 800-meters on Thursday.

All events start at 8 a.m. each day.

“Those two will be leaving Wednesday afternoon to go

to Drake, while we’re taking a portion of the team to Indiana State,” he said. “Then Thursday, the rest of our Drake crew will head out, hopefully get their Thursday, and for the most part compete on Friday and Saturday.”

Akers and the coaching staff have been evaluating each athlete weekly with conference coming up quickly.

“We continue to evaluate every week where we’re at, what we need to do training wise, as well as what we think our potential lineup is going to be,” he said. “One, we can evaluate where we’re at and then you also have to look at the conference list and evaluate where the other teams are at this point in time.”

There’s a strategy that Akers uses when making his conference lineups.

“Sort of put on your coaching cap and figure out where they’re going to put their people and then try and put your people in the events where you could possibly score the most points,” he said.

This is the 106th Drake Relays and it goes from the April 22-26.

Eastern will have athletes there from Thursday to Saturday.

*Mark Shanahan can be reached at 581-2812 or mmschanahan@eiu.edu.*



# RHYTHM IN ROBERTS

## Freshman brings percussion to dugout

By Blake Nash  
Staff Reporter | @Banash5

Eastern softball freshman Andrea Roberts remembers watching the University of Alabama softball team play when she was younger, amazed by the sounds coming from the field.

Not all those sounds and sights came on the field, but in the dugout, where the Crimson Tide players had formed its own drum line called “Bama Beats.”

“They would always play drums in the dugouts with softballs and on the cubbies,” Roberts said. “It was something that sounded really cool, and it was something I wanted to do when I got to college because it’s cool and everybody gets into it.”

Roberts made the first road trip of her collegiate career to Louisiana for games against Louisiana State, Incarnate Word and Louisiana-Lafayette.

The Ragin’ Cajuns formed their own drumming sideshow, banging rhythmically on buckets with their bare hands.

This caught the eye of Roberts and her teammates, especially when they faced Ball State a week later.

“We were like, ‘Oh my God that’s really cool, we should do it,’” Roberts said.

The Eastern players still had to decide what to play, and who would be the “band leaders” for its new faction. Roberts, who has played the drums since the 6th grade, immediately stepped forward and offered her talents, as did sophomore

Hannah Rachor.

Roberts said she started playing pop music because the rhythm is much smoother than other music, but she began to adapt to the sounds and form her own beat to it as well.

“I like to do pop and hip-hop because those are some of the easiest ones,” Roberts said. “But sometimes with country, it’s a little bit different because it will have some jazz type of swing beat to it.”

Rachor said most of their beats come from improvisation and whatever pleases the team.

“YouTube gave us a few ideas for beats,” Rachor said. “But other than that, it’s usually improvisation and testing out what sounds good and what doesn’t.”

Eastern coaches Angie Nicholson and Stephanie Taylor encouraged their team to play throughout the games, believing it kept the energy up and the players in the game.

Not everyone was on board at first, but they changed their minds when some of the songs started growing on them.

“Our girls can go along with the beat and it just sends a positive vibe throughout the team,” Rachor said. “It not only keeps us in the game, but as we get louder, the other team can get frustrated and allow it to interfere with their ability to play.”

One of the favorites among the team is “The Train.”

Freshman Michelle Rodgers and sophomore Ashlynn Paul are two of the biggest fans of the song, which starts in a slow,

rhythmic beat before picking up speed, with the breaks between each strike of the bucket becoming fewer and fewer the longer it goes much like the sounds of a train.

“It sounds like the chugga-chugga of a train, and we all clap to it really fast,” Rogers said. “It’s kind of what we do when we have a big hit or something,” Paul said. “It’s a lot of fun.”

Roberts does not remember if it was herself or junior Kylie Bennett, who was drumming when the train first started.

During the usual rhythm of the song, the rest of the team started adding an extra, hard clap, for every fourth or fifth one.

“We just decided to call it the train because it gets faster and faster,” Roberts said. “Kylie will start it with her hands and then I’ll start with the drums. Eventually, I’ll go really fast and everybody just starts clapping on a steady beat.”

An original drum line of two people expanded to more as Bennett, Rachor, Roberts and Paul have formed a quartet of drummers for the Panthers.

“I don’t have many beats, and everyone kind of makes fun of me for it,” Paul said. “I’ve picked up some stuff from Andrea this year to fill in at certain points. It’s worked out. She’s a good teacher.”

**Blake Nash can be reached at 581-2812 or [banash@eiu.edu](mailto:banash@eiu.edu).**



KEVIN HALL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Andrea Roberts, a freshman catcher for the Panthers’ softball team, not only aids her team in games, but she also provides them their own soundtrack while beating buckets at games.

# Eastern places 9th in OVC tournament

By Bob Reynolds  
Sports Editor | @BobReynoldsDEN

The Eastern women’s golf team placed ninth out of ten teams in the Ohio Valley Conference tournament at the par-72 Hampton Cove Golf Course in Owen Cross Roads, Ala.

The Panthers shot 980 in three rounds with their best round coming Tuesday when they shot a 316 as a team.

Eastern struggled in the final round of the tournament by shooting a 337 as a team compared to the first two days where the team shot a 327 and a 316.

The 316 in the second round was the lowest round the Panthers have shot all season as a team and freshman Annie Getzen was proud of the way her team fought during the tournament.

“Today wasn’t as great,” she said. “But, we came out and showed that we can play this game. Each individual conquered little things that usually stop us, and that’s what truly matters. This tournament we didn’t let our minds get in the way of a good score.”

Getzin finished the tournament in 48th place individually with shooting 48-over for the tournament.

**“My putts really hurt me today. It’s usually vice versa. But, what truly improved was my rhythm and balance of the mind. Instead of freaking out about a bad shot, instead I took it in stride and attempted to just make up in other strokes.”**

**- Annie Getzin, freshman women’s golfer**

Her best day came Wednesday when she shot a 14-over after shooting an 88 and a 90 the previous two days.

Getzin parred seven holes, matching her total from the previous two days.

She said the main reason for her improvement was that her irons were better. “My putts really hurt me today,” she said. “It’s usually vice versa. But, what truly

ly improved was my rhythm and balance of the mind. Instead of freaking out about a bad shot, instead I took it in stride and attempted to just make up in other strokes.”

Getzin said she wishes she could have contributed to the good scores as well.

“Sometimes, in golf, the swing just implodes,” she said. “Mine did that at last week’s tournament. I tried to work it back together during the week, but change takes time. (Wednesday) the score may not have changed much, but my game showed individual improvement in multiple areas.”

Sophomore Chloe Wong finished tied for 25th for Eastern.

She shot 22-over for the tournament and had her best day Tuesday, when she shot a 4-over 76.

Wong birdied four holes on the tournament and had 30 pars in 54 holes.

Getzin said she was not surprised how well Wong shot.

“Chloe had all the parts of the game, just finally put it together for this tournament,” she said. “I’m so glad she led the team strongly this weekend. It was a long time coming.”

Eastern Kentucky ended up

wining the tournament by one stroke over Jacksonville State.

The Colonels shot a 296 and was led by Sofie Levin.

Levin shot 4-under in the final round of the tournament Wednesday.

Levin shot a 2-under on the front nine holes played Wednesday and birdied five holes.

She only had one bogey and that was on the par-3 fourth hole.

Levin birdied 10 holes on the tournament and carded only one double bogey, which was in day one.

She won the individual title as well.

Emilie Simmons of Eastern Kentucky tied for fifth place in the individuals and was a big part of the Colonels’ title.

Simmons shot a 9-over 225 for the tournament and shot two 74’s in day one and day three.

Simmons shot a 1-under 35 in the first nine holes.

She birdied three of the first nine as well.

Jacksonville State, as a team, shot 301 three consecutive day, but it was not enough to win the tournament.

Melania Bajo Giejo of the Gamecocks shot a 9-over 225 for the tournament, and shot a

1-over 73 in day one of the tournament, which led Jacksonville State.

The Gamecocks had two other players crack the top 10 for individuals. Maya Parsons shot a 1-under 71 in Wednesday’s round, which put her in the top 10.

Parsons improved greatly from her 13-over 85 Monday.

She took a 10 on the second hole, which was a par-4 300 yard hole.

Also, Natalia Azcue tied for ninth as well as she shot a 2-over 74 in the second round of the tournament.

Tennessee Tech came in third in the tournament and was led by Whitney Robertson, who shot a 4-over 220.

She was in first place after day two of the tournament, but her 3-over 75 dropped her to third.

Minta Yin from Murray State placed second for individuals as she shot a 2-over 218 for the tournament.

Her best day came Wednesday when she shot a 2-under 70.

**Bob Reynolds can be reached at 581-2812 or [rjreynolds@eiu.edu](mailto:rjreynolds@eiu.edu).**